Protognathosaurus

Protognathosaurus (meaning "early jaw lizard") is a genus of herbivorous dinosaur from the Middle Jurassic. It was a sauropod found at Dashanpu in Sichuan in what is present-day China.

In 1988 Zhang Yihun named and described the type species *Protognathus oxyodon*.[1] The generic name was derived from Greek πρῶτος, *protos*, "first", and γνάθος, *gnathos*, "jaw". The specific name is derived from Greek ὀξύς, *oxys*, "sharp", and ὀδών, *odon*, "tooth". However, the generic name was preoccupied, already in use, by a genus of beetle, *Protognathus* Basilewsky 1950. The species was therefore renamed into the *combinatio nova Prognathosaurus oxyodon* by George Olshevsky in 1991.[2]

Protognathosaurus is known only from a fragmentary lower jaw, holotype **CV 00732** (= ChM V732) found in a layer of the Shaximiao Formation dating from the Bathonian-Callovian. The fragment consists of the front left dentary and shows eighteen tooth positions, some still containing sharp replacement teeth, after which the genus was named. Most researchers consider *Protognathosaurus* to be a *nomen dubium*.

Protognathosaurus	
Temporal range: 165–160 Ma	
Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN	
Middle Jurassic	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Suborder:	†Sauropodomorpha
Clade:	†Sauropoda
Genus:	†*Protognathosaurus* Olshevsky, 1991
Species:	†***P. oxyodon***
Binomial name	
†***Protognathosaurus oxyodon*** Zhang, 1988	

References

1. Zhang, Y., 1988, *The Middle Jurassic Dinosaur Fauna from Dashanpu, Zigong, Sichuan. Vol. II. Sauropod Dinosaurs (I)*, Sichuan Publishing House of Science and Technology, Chengdu, China, 89 pp
2. Olshevsky, G., 1991, *A Revision of the Parainfraclass Archosauria Cope, 1869, Excluding the Advanced Crocodylia. Mesozoic Meanderings 2*, iv + 196 pp

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